



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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THOMAS A. DESJARDIN
ACTING COMMISSIONER

EXHIBIT #VI.A.

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Thomas A. Desjardin, Acting Commissioner*

DATE: June 10, 2015

SUBJECT: Receipt of the University of Southern Maine (USM) School of Education and Human Development Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) Audit Report.

BACKGROUND: A review team approved by the State Board of Education conducted an onsite review from Sunday, October 26, 2014 to noon, Wednesday, October 29, 2014. A Report of Finds was written and submitted to the State Board of Education on January 14, 2015. The report was held in abeyance until TEAC had made its national accreditation decision. The attached TEAC Audit Report is available for the State Board to consider with State Team Report of Findings to approval.

USM is responsible for multiple initial certification pathways in their delivery systems. Currently, the post-baccalaureate Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP) and the discontinued undergraduate-graduate Teachers for Elementary and Middle Schools (TEAMS) are nationally accredited by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), which has merged with the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The ETEP, Special Education, and the new Undergraduate Pathways replacing the TEAMS program were included in the TEAC Inquiry Brief.

SEHD initial certification programs in Art Education and Music Education are accredited by discipline specific, national accrediting agencies. New pathways to initial certification are: the Lewiston-Auburn College (LAC) Pathways; the Early Childhood program at LAC; and the Montessori Early Childhood Teacher Education Program. Given that all of these are initial teacher certification, they too were considered for accreditation by TEAC (now CAEP).

Concurrent with the state team's visit a national, TEAC team conducted its review of the ETEP and TEAMS programs for renewal of national accreditation. The TEAC team was on the USM October 28th to October 30th. The USM Teacher Education Department's Inquiry Brief and associated appendices submitted to TEAC, also served as documentation for state team review.

While the joint state and national teams collaborated with one another during their on-site visits, the state team conducted its review of the ETEP and TEAMS programs, as well as the other unit degree offerings, to affirm their continued compliance with Chapter 114. The advanced educator preparation programs leading to certification in Maine, not being considered for national accreditation, were also assessed by the state team for their compliance with all applicable Chapter 114 standards. The programs reviewed for state approval were as follows: Art Education, Music Education, Counselor Education, Educational Leadership, School Psychology, Literacy, LAC Pathways, Early Childhood at LAC, Montessori Early Childhood, and Teacher Education.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education grant renewal of state program approval for the following University of Southern Maine (USM) educator preparation programs: Art Education, Early Childhood, Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP), Educational Leadership, Literacy, Montessori Early Childhood Teacher Education, Music Education, Special Education, Undergraduate Pathways, Counselor Education, Literacy Education, and School Psychology. The State Board approval period would be from October 2014 to October 2021.

* Presented by: Ángel Martínez Loredó, Higher Education Specialist
Maine Department of Education